GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:65
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2017
Air Quality
Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that air quality in the country including National Capital Territory of Delhi and NCR is deteriorating fast and has reached an alarming level and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government has taken steps to tackle the air quality problems in coordination with the State Governments for reducing the pollution level; and
(c) if so, the details thereof along with the action plan worked out/implemented to ensure air quality?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 65 due for reply on 07.02.2017 regarding Air Quality" by Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel, Hon"ble Member of Parliament

(a) Central Pollution Control Board monitors the ambient air quality at 680 monitoring stations located in 300 cities/towns covering 29 states and 6 union territories across the country under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). Under NAMP, three air pollutants viz., Sulphur Dioxide (SO2), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) and Particulate Matter size equal to or less than 10 micron (PM10), have been identified for regular monitoring at all the locations. The ambient air quality data for metro cities including Delhi and NCR cities during 2014-2016 is given at Annexure-I.

The analysis of air quality data of 42 cities during 2016 with respect to SO2 revealed that all 42 cities are within the NAAQS of 50 Âµg/m3 (annual standard). As for NO2, out of 42 cities, 12 cities (namely Amritsar, Aurangabad, Delhi, Howrah, KalyanDombovali, Kolkata, Meerut, Navi Mumbai, Pimpri-Chinchwad, Pune, Thane and Vijaywada) exceed the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) of 40 Âµg/m3 annual standard). With respect to PM10, out of 42 cities, 41 cities do not comply with the NAAQS of 60 Âµg/m3 (annual standard). However, only Chennai is complying with the National Standard of 60 Âµg/m3 (annual standard) with respect to PM10.

The air quality in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and NCR is above the national standards with respect to Particulate Matter, PM10 & PM2.5. The values for SO2 are within the NAAQS at all the locations while the values of NOx are within NAAQS at all locations except Faridabad and Delhi during 2015. The particulate matter concentration was high during November 2016 − January 2017 because of prevailing meteorological conditions like calm weather, low temperature, very low wind speed and reduced mixing height, thereby preventing dispersion of pollutants and leading to accumulation of pollutants. The ambient air quality data is given at Annexure-II.

(b) & (c) The Government has issued a set of directions under section 18(1)(b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 for control of air pollution which include measures relating to control of vehicular emissions; road dust/re-suspension of dust and other fugitive emissions; bio-mass burning; industrial air pollution; construction and demolition activities etc. (Annexure-III). Implementation of these directions is being coordinated by Central Pollution Control Board with State Pollution Control Boards / Pollution Control Committees. The steps taken by Government to reduce the rising air pollution in cities of the country include notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards; formulation of environmental regulations / statutes; setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality; introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blending; promotion of cleaner production processes; launching of National Air Quality index; universalization of BS-IV by 2017; leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020; comprehensive amendments to various Waste Management Rules and notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; banning of burning of leaves, biomass, municipal solid waste; promotion of public transport and network of metro, e-rickshaws, promotion of car pooling, Pollution Under Control Certificate, lane discipline, vehicle maintenance; regular co-ordination meetings at official and ministerial level; issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries; collection of Environmental Protection Charge on more than 2000 CC diesel vehicles in NCR; ban on bursting of sound emitting crackers between 10 PM to 6 AM; notification of Graded Response Action Plan for different levels of air pollution in NCR etc.

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